3/24/72

Dear Js,

This requires no answer, may not interest you. It is part intellectual exercise, part a note on -oover and my ability or inability to read him. I've got about 20 minut s before I have to go to Get Lil. I was outside and worked about as much as I should. Got back in winded, bu with enough wood to fuel us for the night using the fireplace. I took the radio that uses penlight batteries ith me and had in it a set of the cheap batteries that had gotten to where they registered low in the TC40. They went completely dead while I was chopping, so for that period I heard no news and earlier hav't because of work. I have the set going now with the very first batteries that I took out of the recorder as a precaution, after using them almost 2 hours. They are, I think, the best penlights I've ever used, of any make. They are Sonys. Anyway, before the time I have to go, there will be a report on what I heard by phone when I came in.

I was working 5 a.m., having gotten up earlier. While shaving and making coffee I listened to the new and there wasm nothing on it at all like what on the 7 a.m. CBS-TV news I assumed was a careful leak from the FBI. I used the language in a letter to Larry of which I think I sent you a carbon. It was in typical Hoover jargon and with the wrong emphasis and that on the wrong side or in the wrong direction. The more I thought about this the more certain I became that translater from Hoover into English I could be certain he had confirmation, as I am pretty sure I suggested in that note.

So, when I got back in the house winded, s soon as I caught my breath I phoned my friends at the London Times to suggest this analysis and to see if they moved anything on the Vogeler story. Just heard UPI's version. Well, the one to whom I spoke was not there, so he knew nothing on the Vogeler thing. When I started to tell him my suspicion he said there had been a story on the wire saying that Beard's mill was used but the time could not be determined. Was it specific, I asked, and he yupped. I said that is the most unusual thing. Why? Because JEH is always evasive, always gives himself an out, always helps friends, etc., and is always for the right. It just bubbled out that if he was specific I sure would expect a major development not now forecast, and again it came to me that maybe Kleindienst would blast out. I think there would have been no doubt(aside/ if the "liberals" had been liberals and fought him on his record.

Anyway, if he was really specific, I'll stick by the prediction, which is the essence of the note I wanted to make and date. I began this at a little after 4:30 p.m.

This radio report was other than unqualified. It sounds more like the J H I have come to know I sometimes feel like the back of my hand (right, that is). It sounds like the typical complicated thing. And it is NOT specific in this regard. It says that the ink was similar- which means absolutely nothing - and the margins are similar -which means no more, considering what he can say about the individual type identifications. He says it was not typed on "Hunes'" typewriter. That sounds much more like the leak to CBS when they used the FBI emphasis. But without seeing the full text of a Hoover report and then often not without careful study one can't reall know what he is saying or what he says means.

If he can't make the most unquestionable identification from type-face alone, what did Alger Hiss go to jail for? Or does it depend on whose type he is facing?

The old saying is working out again on the weather. We had some almost 80-degree weather end end of February or early March, record breaking for I think three days, that mild. It had been barely above freezing during the day the past two days, with high march winds. And I just had a letter from a girl in N.O. saying that it was so beautiful there her lit prof moved the class onto the campus, into the sun. Thats the way! You have that kind of weather often, but it is still too early here,. I expect we'll lose the first Jonquil blooms. Tulips, lilies and other plants coming out, so Spring is close after its official arrival. Best, HW